

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/466,236

Examiner

Robert M. Pond

Applicant(s)

PARTOVI ET AL.

Art Unit

3625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to RCE (10/31/07); Interview (12/05/07) and Examiner's Amendment (12/07/07).
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-18, 20-28, 30, 31, 33-35, 49, 51, 53-57 and 59-61.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

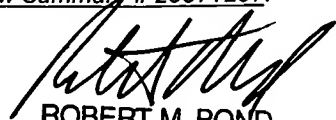
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 20071205.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☒ Other Interview Summary # 20071207.

  
ROBERT M. POND  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Continuation of Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was discussed: Received approval/corrections for claims amendments to put claims into condition for allowance. See attached electronic mail correspondence with Ms. Yenyun Fu.

Attached: copy of electronic mail correspondence with Ms. Yenyun Fu. .

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

#### ***Authorization***

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in an interview with Ms. Yenyun Fu, #59,141 on 07 December 2007. Regarding claim 57, the Applicants invoke 35 USC 112 6<sup>th</sup> paragraph for claim 57 as documented in an Interview Summary included with this Examiner's Amendment (Paper #200071207).

#### ***Claims Allowed***

Claims 2-18, 20-28, 30, 31, 33-35, 49, 51, 53-57 and 59-61 are allowed. Claim 58 and dependent claims 37-47 were canceled by Ms. Yenyun Fu subsequent to the RCE/amendment entered 31 October 2007. Claims 1, 19, 29, 32, 36-48, 50, 52 and 58 are canceled.

#### ***In the Claims***

The claims entered 31 October 2007 have been amended as follows:

- Delete claim 54 in its entirety and insert therefore:

- -54. A method of facilitating an electronic commerce transaction between a user and a merchant, the method comprising:

operating a computer system that is unaffiliated with a second set of computer systems utilized by a set of merchants to provide electronic commerce, the computer system being configured to respond to a user's audio command representing an audio purchase request received via a telephone interface system of the computer system;

presenting one or more offerings provided by at least one of the set of merchants in audio format via the telephone interface system;

identifying a particular merchant of the at least one of the set of merchants to whom the audio purchase request is relevant in response to receiving the audio purchase request;

automatically establishing an electronic communication link between the computer system and a particular computer system of the second set of computer systems that is affiliated with the particular merchant; and

performing by said computer system acting as an agent for the user, the electronic commerce transaction initiated by the audio purchase request.- -

- Delete claim 55 in its entirety and insert therefore:

- -55. A method of facilitating an electronic commerce transaction between a user and a merchant, the method comprising:

operating a computer system that is unaffiliated with a second set of computer systems utilized by a set of merchants to provide electronic commerce,

the computer system being configured to respond to a user's audio command representing an audio purchase request received via a telephone interface system of the computer system;

presenting one or more offerings provided by at least one of the set of merchants in audio format via the telephone interface system;

converting at the computer system the received audio command to an electronic command in response to receiving the audio purchase request;

identifying a particular merchant of the set of merchants to whom the audio purchase request is relevant;

automatically establishing by the computer system an electronic communication link with a particular computer system of the second set of computer systems that is affiliated with the particular merchant by utilizing the electronic command; and

performing by said computer system acting as an agent for the user, the electronic commerce transaction initiated by the audio purchase request.- -

- Delete claim 56 in its entirety and insert therefore:

- -56. A computer system for facilitating an electronic commerce transaction between a user and a merchant comprising:

a network interface including at least one program to access a second set of computer systems using one or more of a SSL protocol, a HTTP, or a HTTPS, the second set of computer systems being utilized by a set of merchants to provide electronic commerce;

a telephone interface to receive a user's audio purchase request and to receive telephone identifying information corresponding to the telephone, wherein the user is presented one or more offerings provided by at least one of the set of merchants in audio format via the telephone interface; and

a computer system to control the network interface and the telephone interface, the computer system being unaffiliated with the second set of computer systems and facilitating an electronic commerce transaction with a particular computer system of the second set of computer systems, automatically establishing an electronic communication link with the particular computer system to initiate an electronic commerce transaction, wherein, the particular computer system is associated with a particular merchant of the set of merchants to be identified from the received audio purchase request, and wherein said computer system acting as an agent for the user, performs the electronic commerce transaction initiated by the audio purchase request..- -

- Delete claim 57 in its entirety and insert therefore:

- -57. A computer system for facilitating an electronic commerce transaction between a user and a merchant comprising:

means for the computer system to operate independently and separately from a second set of unaffiliated computer systems utilized by a set of merchants to provide electronic commerce;

means for responding to a user's audio command representing an audio purchase request;

means for presenting one or more offerings provided by at least one of the set of merchants in audio format via a telephone interface system;

means for identifying a particular merchant of the set of merchants to whom the audio purchase request is relevant;

means for automatically establishing an electronic communication link with a particular computer system of the second set of computer systems; and

means for electronically interacting by the computer system acting as an agent for the user with the particular computer system of the second set of computer systems to perform an electronic commerce transaction initiated by the audio purchase request.- -.

- Delete claim 59 in its entirety and insert therefore:

- -59. A method for facilitating an electronic commerce transaction between a user and a merchant comprising:

operating a first computer system that is unaffiliated with a second set of computer systems utilized by a set of merchants to provide electronic commerce to a user, the first computer system being configured to respond to an audio command representing a one or more of an audio purchase inquiry and an audio purchase confirmation received via a telephone interface system of the computer system to purchase the item;

receiving an audio purchase inquiry from the user associated with an electronic commerce transaction;

receiving telephone identifying information via the telephone interface system;

accessing a user profile corresponding to the telephone identifying information, the user profile corresponding to information about the user;

identifying a set of criteria governing the electronic commerce transaction based on a set of audio correspondences with the user, the set of criteria indicates a preference for one or more of a type of offering and a merchant; presenting one or more offerings of a type that is associated with the preference provided by at least one of the set of merchants to the user in audio format via the telephone interface system;

receiving the audio purchase confirmation from the user for an offering of the one or more offerings, identifying a particular merchant of the set of merchants from whom the offering is provided;

providing a third audio request over the telephone interface system, the third audio request corresponding to a request for at least one of a name, an address, a credit card number, a credit card expiration date, an electronic mail address, or a telephone number;

receiving an audio information response over the telephone interface system, the audio information response corresponding to at least one of a name, an address, a credit card number, a credit card expiration date, an electronic mail address, or a telephone number;

storing the corresponding at least one of a name, an address, a credit card number, a credit card expiration date, an electronic mail address, or a telephone number in the user profile;



automatically establishing an electronic communication link with the particular computer system of the second set of computer systems that is affiliated with the particular merchant;

communicating with the particular computer system to complete the electronic commerce transaction initiated by the audio purchase inquiry; wherein the communicating with the particular computer system comprises providing information from the user profile to the particular computer system; and

generating a voice receipt, the voice receipt corresponding to information about the electronic commerce transaction, wherein the voice receipt includes at least one of a name of a product, a description of the product, a name of the particular merchant, a contact information for the particular merchant, a price paid for the product, an order number, a confirmation number, or a status.- -

- Delete claim 60 in its entirety and insert therefore:

- -60. A method of completing a user's purchase over a telephone from a list including a plurality of items, the method comprising:

operating a first computer system that is unaffiliated with a second set of computer systems utilized by a set of merchants to provide electronic commerce, the first computer system being configured to respond to the user's audio command representing a request to purchase from the list, and the telephone being coupled to the first computer system by a telephone interface;

using the first computer system to present each of the plurality of items in the list over the telephone interface;

identifying a particular merchant of the set of merchants to whom the audio command is relevant in response to the audio command, and causing the computer system to automatically establish an electronic communication link with a particular computer system of the second set of computer systems that is affiliated with the particular merchant; and

communicating by the computer system acting as an agent for the user with the particular computer system to perform an electronic commerce transaction to complete the purchase from the list.- -

- Delete claim 61 in its entirety and insert therefore:

- -61. A method for facilitating an electronic commerce transaction between a user and a merchant using information transmitted over a telephone interface coupled to a computer, the method comprising:

operating the computer that is unaffiliated with a second set of computer systems utilized by a set of merchants to provide electronic commerce, the computer being configured to respond to the user's audio command;

presenting by the computer one or more offerings provided by at least one of the set of merchants in audio format via the telephone interface;

identifying a particular merchant of the at least one of the set of merchants to whom the audio command is relevant in response to receiving the audio command over the telephone interface, and causing the computer to automatically establish an electronic communication link with and communicate

with a particular computer system of the second set of computer systems that is affiliated with the particular merchant;

performing by said computer acting as an agent for the user, the electronic commerce transaction initiated by the audio command; and

wherein transmitting information over the telephone interface comprises:

sending audio data from the computer to an audio interface for presenting the audio data to a human, the audio data pertaining to an electronic commerce transaction between the computer and the particular computer system;

receiving data on the computer, the data corresponding to a speech recognition result for the audio data by said human; and

responsive to receiving the data, updating a data storage device coupled to the computer by storing the speech recognition result in said data storage device.- -

#### **Examiner's Note Regarding Cited Prior Art**

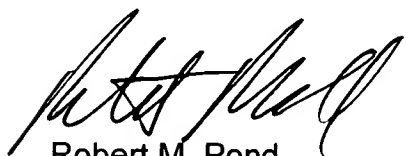
Prior art Cohen (US 7,082,397) cited in the previous office action remains the closest US Patent. Voice Commerce (NPL cited in Paper #20051212) remains as the closest NPL.

**Conclusion**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert M. Pond whose telephone number is 571-272-6760. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM-5:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Jeff Smith can be reached on 571-272-6763. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Robert M. Pond  
Primary Examiner  
December 7, 2007